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CITY/REGION

Colorado awaits Amendment 2 decision

Gazette Telegraph
and news services

Rallies and other events are being planned in Colorado Springs and Boulder for the day the U.S. Supreme Court hands down its decision on Amendment 2.

The court has 11 weeks left in the current session in which to hand down the decision.

The type of response by groups will depend on whether the high court gives thumbs up or thumbs down to the controversial amendment.

Either a demonstration or a party is planned in Colorado Springs by Ground Zero, a group that supports gay rights. Depending on the court's ruling, Ground Zero will hold a celebration at its Pride Center downtown, or it will lead a demonstration march from a yet-undetermined starting point to the Pride Center, said Ground Zero spokesman Frank Whitworth.

Colorado Springs is home to Colorado for Family Values, which sponsored Amendment 2 in 1992. Voters approved the measure, which forbids the state and local governments to adopt laws that protect gays and lesbians from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

Boulder, along with the cities of Denver and Aspen and six individuals, sued the state, and the Colorado Supreme Court declared the amendment unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing that decision.

Citizen's Project, a Colorado Springs organization that keeps tabs on what it calls the "Religious Right," plans a press conference when the decision is announced, said project coordinator Megan Day.

Colorado Springs city officials plan no public events after the ruling.

"The bottom line is the city government has absolutely nothing to do with this amendment," city spokesman Jay Beeton said.

The city's long-standing policies on parades, riot control and other crowd-control measures will be used if necessary. "But none of that has ever occurred (locally) before on this issue," he said.

Meanwhile, Boulder continues to prepare.

The Community Response Team, made up of representatives from Boulder, the University of Colorado and the gay and lesbian community, has organized several events to respond to the decision.

There will be a rally at CU's Dalton Trumbo Fountain and a news conference where officials will comment on the decision.

Boulder's Human Relations Commission plans a later rally at the Boulder County Courthouse, with several speakers, including lawmakers and religious leaders.

Several private and public agencies that have pages on the World Wide Web most likely will post a copy of the decision on the Internet.

Citizen's Project will try to get a copy onto its page, which is still being built. Their Internet address is **http://www.databahn.net/freedom/**.

The Legal Information Institute at Cornell University also posts complete texts of Supreme Court opinions on its World Wide Web home page, generally by late afternoon. Its Internet address is **http://www.law.cornell.edu/lii.table.html**.

FOCUS: WHAT'S UP WITH DOLE?

To win in November, start with a mes

By **Pat Truly**

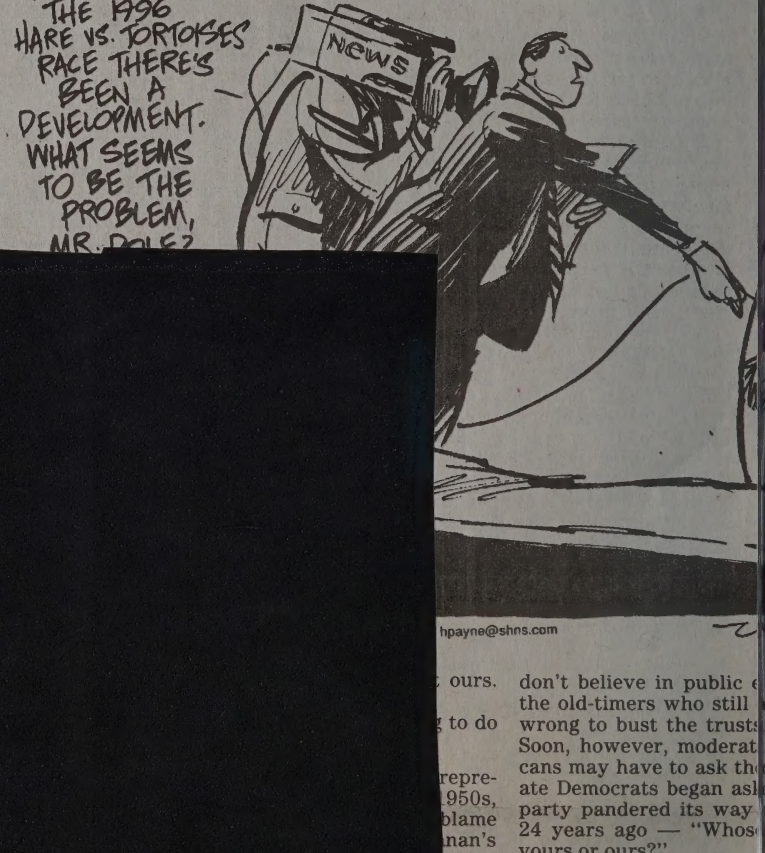
Henry

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole knows just how Paul Newman and Robert Redford felt when they couldn't get away from the posse.

A year ago, Dole was awarded the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, in part because no one else of equal national stature seemed to want it. Now Dole has lost New Hampshire to, of all people, Pat Buchanan, and is barely ahead of somebody named Lamar Alexander.

Dole must be asking, like Butch and Sundance in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "Who are those guys?"

The answer is that many things have changed since Dole first enlisted in the GOP. The Grand Old



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